

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I would like to announce, for the information of all Senators, that at 3:45 the Senate will receive, on a bipartisan basis, the Secretary of State in S. 407 for a briefing on her recent visit to Europe and the Middle East. Then, also, a number of Senators and House Members will be meeting with Prime Minister Blair in the Rayburn Room on the House side at 4:30. So we would like to make sure that all Senators can attend the briefing at 3:45, and since we have such a large number of Senators that are going to be meeting with Prime Minister Blair, it would not be our intent to have recorded votes or further substantive business this afternoon.

Obviously, we still have time for morning business speeches, if Senators would like to do that. That is why we are not scheduling anything else this afternoon legislatively, because these are very important meetings we have pending.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate immediately proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations:

Four nominations reported by the Armed Services Committee today.

I further ask unanimous consent that the nominations be confirmed, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, any statements relating to the nominations appear at this point in the RECORD, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and then the Senate return to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations were considered and confirmed, en bloc, as follows:

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following-named United States Air Force officer for appointment as the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and for appointment to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 154:

To be general

Gen. Joseph W. Ralston, 0000.

The following-named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Thomas R. Case, 0000.

IN THE ARMY

The following Army National Guard to the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under Title 10, U.S.C. Section 12203:

To be brigadier general

Col. Michael J. Squier, 0000.

The following Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be Brigadier general

Col. Robert L. Echols, 0000.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now return to legislative session.

SENATOR KENNEDY'S ELOQUENT ADDRESS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, earlier this month, our colleague Senator KENNEDY made his first ever visit to Northern Ireland.

On Friday, January 9, in the Guildhall, in the City of Derry, Senator KENNEDY delivered the first Tip O'Neill Memorial Lecture, sponsored by the University of Ulster, the City Council of Derry, and the U.S. Consulate in Belfast.

Senator KENNEDY's leadership on this issue and his longstanding efforts to reach out to both Protestants and Catholics in Northern Ireland were evident in his remarks and in the warm reception he received from both sides of the community during his visit.

For many years, Senator KENNEDY has been at the forefront of this country's commitment to do all it can to end the violence in Northern Ireland and achieve a lasting peace for that troubled land. I believe all of us in Congress share that commitment.

I commend Senator KENNEDY for his contribution to the current peace initiative. I believe that his eloquent address will be of interest to all of us in Congress and I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the address was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

ADDRESS OF SENATOR EDWARD KENNEDY—
"NORTHERN IRELAND—A VIEW FROM AMERICA"

TIP O'NEILL MEMORIAL LECTURE, UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER, MAGEE COLLEGE, INCORE, GUILDHALL—DERRY, NORTHERN IRELAND—JANUARY 9, 1998

I want to thank Professor Lord Smith and the University of Ulster's Initiative on Conflict Resolution and Ethnicity, the home of the Tip O'Neill Chair in Peace Studies and the Tip O'Neill Fellowship, for inviting me here today. Let me also thank the Deputy Mayor, Joe Miller and everyone at Derry City Council for welcoming me to this beautiful city. I'm grateful to Dr. Maurice Hayes for his generous introduction, and I commend him and the Ireland Funds for establishing this living memorial to a great man, a great friend of mine, and a great friend of Ireland.

I'm especially honored that Mr. and Mrs. Restorick and Mr. and Mrs. McGoldrick have traveled from Peterborough in England and from Craigavon to take part in this occasion. In the face of great personal tragedy, these two families refuse to hate. They honor their sons Stephen and Michael most by their resolve that no other family shall have to suffer what they endure. Their lives every day are as eloquent as their words here today.

I'm honored as well that the U.S. Ambassador to the U.K., Philip Lader, is with us today. Ambassador Lader has close personal and professional ties to President Clinton, and I have great respect for his skill and judgment. He is perhaps best known in America for his ability to bring people together, and he's an excellent choice to represent

President Clinton here at this auspicious and hopeful time.

And I'm delighted that my sister Jean is here. My family has a great love for this island from which we come and which for us will always be a home. Jean visited Ireland in 1963 with President Kennedy and I know he would be proud—as all the Kennedys are—of the extraordinary work she has done as our Ambassador to Ireland.

A President of Harvard is reported to have said that the reason universities are such great storehouses of learning is that every entering student brings a little knowledge in—and no graduating student ever takes any knowledge out.

But I'm sure that's not true at the University of Ulster.

This institution teaches, in many different ways, the most important lesson of all—that all knowledge is universal and all men and women are brothers and sisters.

It was here, in the Guildhall, in November 1995 that President Clinton inaugurated the Tip O'Neill Chair in Peace Studies. As he said on that occasion, "peace is really the work of a lifetime."

In that spirit, I come here to give the Tip O'Neill Memorial Lecture. And it is fitting that I do so in this place, because Tip's ancestral home on his grandfather O'Neill's side was just down the road in Buncrana.

Throughout Tip's life, Ireland was one of his greatest loves. His Irish smile could light up a living room, the whole chamber of the U.S. House of Representatives, and the whole State of Massachusetts.

One of Tip's most famous stories was about a gift by Henry Ford to help build a new hospital in Ireland. His gift was \$5,000, but a local newspaper the next day reported that it was \$50,000. The editor apologized profusely for the mistake, and said he'd run a correction right away, explaining that the actual gift was only \$5,000. It took Henry Ford about one second to realize what was happening, and he said, "No, no, don't run the correction. I'll give the \$50,000, but on one condition—that you install a plaque over the entrance to the hospital with this inscription—"I came unto you, and you took me in."

Tip was scrupulously neutral in the American presidential campaign of 1980, when I was running for President against Jimmy Carter. But Tip told me that every night, before he went to sleep, he was secretly praying that we would have another Irish President of the United States. The prayer was a little ambiguous—but Tip's Irish friend Ronald Reagan, who eventually won that election, was very grateful.

This doesn't quite feel like my first visit to Derry, since I've known John Hume for so long, and I've heard him sing "The Town I Love So Well" so many times.

I first met him a quarter century ago, in the fall of 1972. I was troubled by what had been taking place here, and people I knew well in Massachusetts told me to get in touch with him. I was traveling to Germany for a NATO conference in November of that year. So I called John and he agreed to meet me in Bonn. We had dinner at the home of Ireland's Ambassador there, Sean Ronan. When I signed the Ambassador's guest book, I wrote that I hoped to see him again when there was peace in Ireland. I see Ambassador Ronan here today, so I'm more hopeful than ever that lasting peace is finally very close.

In the following years, John Hume came to Washington often, and we would sit together and talk about the Troubles. He has been a constant voice of reason, an often lonely champion of non-violence, a stalwart advocate of peace.

In 1977, because of John, four Irish-American elected officials—Tip O'Neill, Senator